

# Father Matters: Why Dads are Important for Their Children



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## Objectives

- Understand the importance of fathers and the consequences of fatherlessness.
- Become an advocate for responsible fathering.

## Intended Audiences

- Fathers and mothers
- High school students
- Civic clubs
- FCE groups
- Church groups
- PTAs

## Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with the *Father Matters* (MF2923) lesson.
- If you want to learn more about the significance of fathers visit the following websites:
  - [www.fathers.com](http://www.fathers.com) (especially the “research” section)
  - [www.fathering.org](http://www.fathering.org)
  - [www.ksfatherhood.org](http://www.ksfatherhood.org)
  - [www.aboutdadsradio.com](http://www.aboutdadsradio.com),
  - [www.maybebaby.us.com](http://www.maybebaby.us.com)
  - [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org)
  - [www.fatherhood.gov](http://www.fatherhood.gov)
- Bring copies of the lesson for each participant.

## Small Group Discussion

If you have a small group, lead a 60-minute discussion about fathers. Hand out the lesson to participants and give them time to read it.

Consider the following discussion sequence:

- *If you had a relationship with your father (and/or grandfather or another important father figure), what do you recall about him?* (10 minutes)
- *What did you learn from your father (and/or grandfather)?* (10 minutes)
- *Has being a father changed over the last generation? If so, how has it changed?* (10 minutes)  
(Ignore this question if you have an adolescent audience.)
- *Has the value of having a father decreased significantly due to cultural shifts and advances in reproductive technology? A woman can have a child without being involved with the father. If so, how has it changed and will it continue to change?* (15 minutes)
- *Other than sharing the mother’s workload and financial support, what makes fathers special to children?* (15 minutes)

## Community Awareness Activities

Consider implementing one or more of these activities:

- Contact middle school and high school principals in your county and provide them with copies of the lesson and this leader's guide.
- In cooperation with interested organizations and agencies, hold *Parents University* events for both fathers and daughters and fathers and sons.
- Work with your local zoo or library to offer a special day for fathers and their children.

## Evaluation

I learned something new about fathers.

Yes    No

I will do something different related to what I have learned about fathers.

Yes    No

Comments:



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In each case, credit Chuck Smith, *Father Matters: Why Dads are Important to Their Children, Leader's Guide*, Kansas State University, July 2010.

**Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service**

**MF2924**

**July 2010**

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